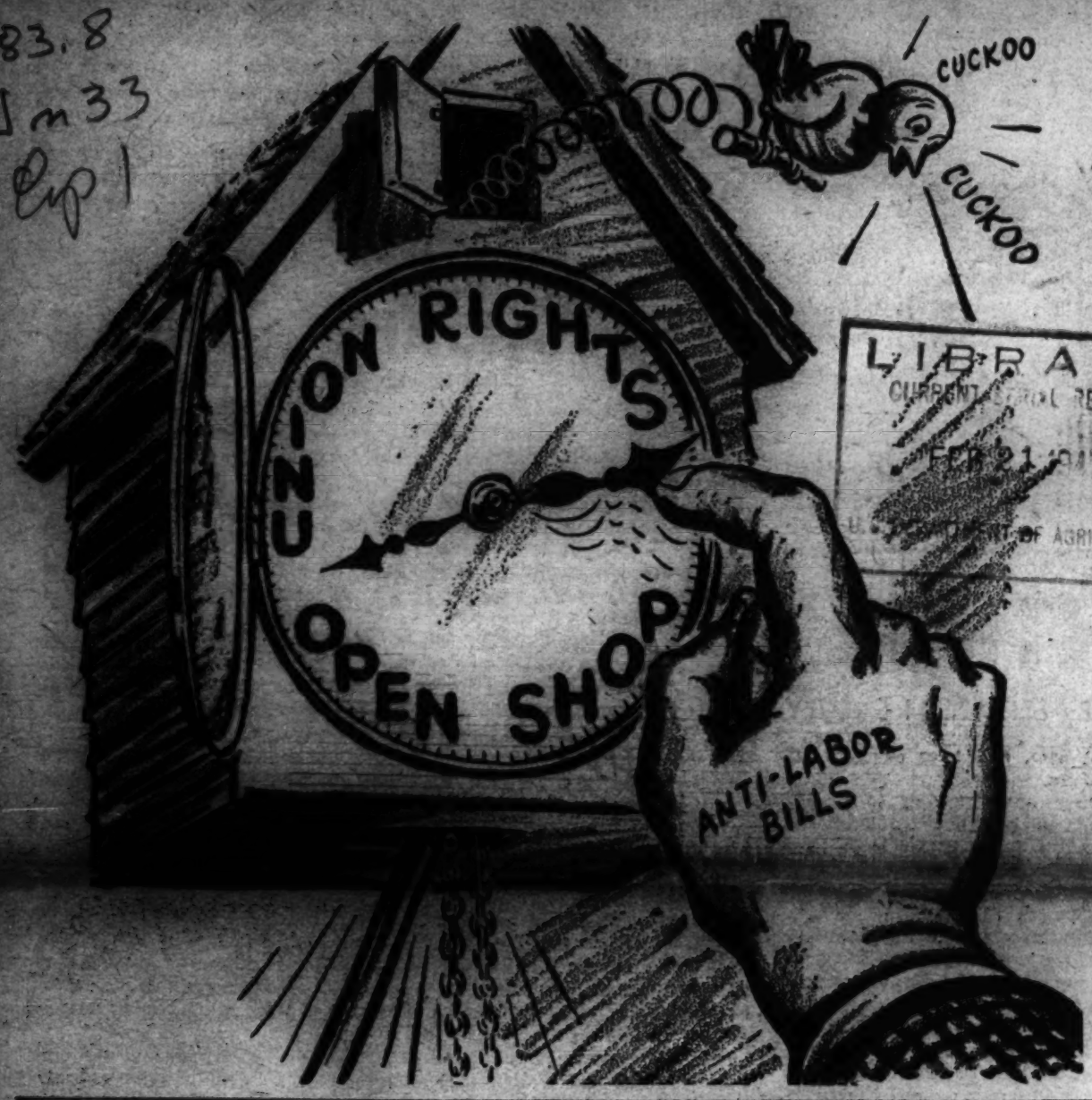
FTA NEWS

FOOD, TOBACCO, AGRICULTURAL AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION OF

Vol. VII, No. 3 FEBRUARY 15, 1947 5 Cents

283.8
Wm33
Ap1



LIBRARY
CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS
FEB 21 1947
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WATCH CONGRESS!

The big monopoly business forces, represented in Congress by reactionary Republicans and polltax Democrats alike, have their hands on the clock of progress, eager to turn it back to the days of the open shop and the company union.

They aim to do this job now, before the first flush of GOP victory at the polls wears away and before the people mobilize to stop them.

What do the labor-haters in big business want? First and foremost, they want to weaken the unions, particularly those of the CIO.

After that, they want to move in on the living and working standards of every American worker, whether he belongs to a union or not.

They want to cut wages, lengthen hours, lay off hundreds of thousands of workers (beginning with minorities and quickly including people of all origins and beliefs), deprive millions of American families of their livelihood — and all for one aim, greater and still greater profits.

They have a variety of plans set for action now in Congress. But whether it's a Ball bill, a Case bill, a bill to outlaw industry wide bargaining, or a bill to repeal or cripple the Wagner Act, they add up to the same thing—first weaken and then crush the unions, beginning with CIO.

No worker or fairminded citizen of any occupation should be fooled by the hot air that surrounds this campaign.

Every reactionary in Congress will tell you with a straight face that his bill is "for the good of the nation." Some of them go so far in sheer gall as to tell you that crippling unions is "for labor's own good" because, it seems, unions are "monopolies" and must be curbed.

So, "for our own good" they propose to free labor from the Wagner Act, free us from strong unions and eventually from our wages and our jobs.

The drive against labor can be slowed and halted, if we act firmly, decisively and unitedly. CIO President Murray has pointed the way in his call for united labor action, including CIO, AFL and Railroad Brotherhoods. FTA-CIO's 6th convention, just ended, endorsed this plan and urged all locals and members to act on it.

Every FTA member has a job to do. That job is to unite with fellow workers, neighbors, fellow citizens in your community in a roar of protest to your Congressmen and Senators. Tell them:

HANDS OFF LABOR'S RIGHTS. NO CRIPPLING CHANGES IN THE WAGNER ACT, THE ANTI-INJUNCTION ACT, THE WAGE HOUR ACT. AMERICAN LABOR MUST STAY FREE!

FTA WINS IN 6 ELECTIONS

FTA's winning drive in the tobacco leafhouse industry continues this week with three more NLRB election victories chalked up in Kentucky, plus three additional victories in Virginia and Mississippi oil and compress plants.

Latest returns coming in as FTA News goes to press show these results:

Brown and Williamson Tobacco Co., Lexington, Ky., 112 for FTA, 10 for AFL, and three for no union. **Southwestern Tobacco Co., Lexington, Ky.**, 116 for FTA, 22 for AFL, and 26 for no union. **American Suppliers Tobacco Co., Maysville, Ky.**, 43 for FTA, 26 for AFL and two for no union.

Suffolk Oil Mill, Suffolk, Va., 23 for FTA and six for no union. **Suffolk Peanut Co., Suffolk, Va.**, 157 for FTA and 17 for no union. **Federal Compress and Warehouse Greenwood, Miss.**, 29 for FTA and three for no union.

NEW PAY CUTS IF . . .

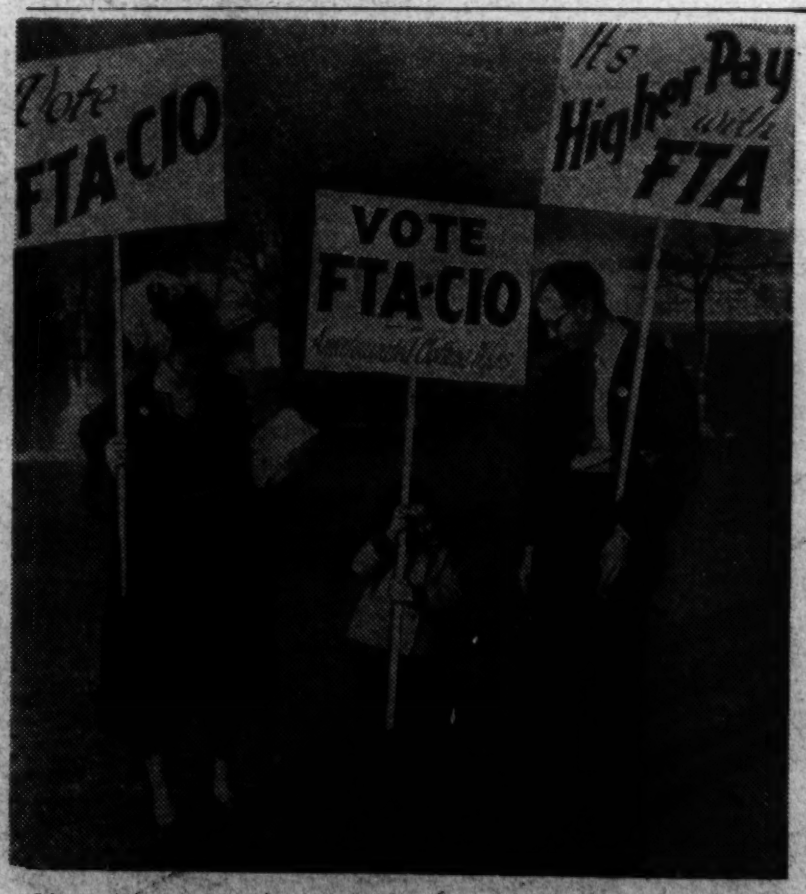
New wage cuts are coming our way—cuts that can take from $75 to $100 a year and up out of your pay envelope.

They're coming from the Natl. Association of Real Estate Boards, the enemies of rent control in Congress and your own landlord. They're coming, unless . . .

YOU ACT NOW TO SAVE RENT CONTROL IN CONGRESS!

WIRE, PHONE, VISIT, WRITE YOUR TWO SENATORS AND YOUR REPRESENTATIVE TODAY. TELL THEM:

HANDS OFF RENT CONTROL—
DO THIS NOW—LATER IS TOO LATE!



Little Charles "Buddy" Hutchinson, son of FTA Local 145 members Mr. and Mrs. Don Hutchinson, does his bit to help daddy's union win against the AFL Teamsters. Victory came when the workers of the Libby plant in Portland, Ore., voted 293 for FTA-CIO to 97 for the AFL. CIO unions, including the Clothing Workers, Natl. Maritime and Marine Cooks and Stewards Unions helped in the drive. (See story page 3.)

FROM WASHINGTON

SAVE RENT CONTROL

By ELIZABETH SASULY

The next 10 days will decide whether or not you are going to pay more rent. Last summer the food trust said that food prices would go down just as soon as price control was removed. So price control was killed, and now our wages buy less than they did before we got wage increases. But the real estate lobby is trying the same phony argument. Raise rents and everybody—the vets and all others who have no housing—will have a place to live.

How? This is the $64 question the National Association of Real Estate Boards doesn't bother to answer. But their pals in Congress are trying to do a job for them by killing rent control this year the way they killed price control and a housing program last year.

A sub-committee of the Senate Banking and Currency Committee is now holding hearings on proposals to hike rents 15 per cent now, and take controls off in June.

They are listening to propaganda dished out by landlords who are doing better than they have in years under the new OPA policy of granting increases in "hardship" cases.

You know what a rent increase would mean to you, with prices of food and clothing what they are today.

Here are some facts on the sad situation of the landlord and what a 15 per cent rent increase would do on an overall basis.

Landlords' net income for residential units went up over 35 percent from 1939 to 1945.

A 15 percent general rent raise would up landlords' income another 25 to 30 percent.

Your cost of living would go up at lease 3 to 4 per. cent. And if you can't pay the extra rent, you face eviction, with no place to move. Put in figures, if your rent is $40 now, you will pay six dollars more a month, $72 more a year. If it is $20, you will pay $36 more a year. CIO testimony before the Senate Banking and Currency Committee brought these facts out. The issue is now before Congress.

What the Senate Committee and the Senate will do pretty well decide the fate of rent control. CIO's fight against the real estate lobby stopped government and President Truman from putting through a 10 percent rent increase. Now, we have to stop Congress.

Senators Wagner (D., N. Y.) and Murray (D., Mont.) have introduced a bill to continue rent control as is for another year after June, 1947.

Save yourself a rent bill you won't be able to pay by putting out some effort and a few pennies now to:

Write and wire your two Senators to keep rent control. Tell them what increase would mean to you.

Write your Representative and tell him the same thing.

Get church, women's, and other groups in your community representing the people who will be hit by a rent raise, to meet and protest to Congress.

Tell It To Congress

Rent Control

The Hawkes' Bill (S. 415) aims to raise rents 15%. Others want to remove all controls. Wagner-Murray Bill is for continuing controls for one year after June, 1947, with no changes. Senate Banking and Currency Sub-Committee is holding hearings and action is coming within the next few days.

ACTION: Write and wire your senators and representative immediately—no rent increases.

Knutson "Soak the Poor" Tax Bill (H.R. 1)

House Ways and Means Committee says it will act without hearings shortly after February 18.

ACTION: Write your representative to insist hearings be held so that we can show who needs tax relief and why.

Senate Anti-labor Bills

Capehart-Wiley Bills (S. 49 and S. 70) limit workers' rights to collect on port-to-portal suits; and weaken vital sections of the Wage-Hour Act. In Senate Judiciary Committee hearings. **Taft-Ball-Smith Bill (S. 55)** bars checkoff, sets 60-day cooling off period outlaws jurisdictional disputes, etc. Due soon in Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee. Ball anti-union security bill (S. 105) outlaws union security. Ball bill (S. 133) bars industry-wide bargaining.

ACTION: Write, wire Senators and committee members to reject.

House Anti-FTA Bills

Two bills due in the House Labor Committee are directly aimed at FTA workers. The **Smith Bill (HR 8)** contains the same provisions as the Elliott Rider denying Wagner Act protection to food processing workers which FTA fought so hard to defeat last year. The **Hoffman Bill (HR 880)** goes even further, defining canning, freezing, dairy, cotton compress, ginning and food processing workers as agricultural workers and excluding them from the jurisdiction of a new board which the bill would set up to replace the NLRB.

ACTION: A wave of protest must come from every local because the continued growth of FTA and the rights of every member are at stake. Write postcards, letters, send wires, to your Congressmen protesting this attack on the lowest paid workers.

NEGRO HISTORY WEEK

This week (Feb. 9-15) is Negro History Week, marked in hundreds of communities throughout the nation. During this week, all men and women of good will pause to pay tribute to the heroes, the leaders and the plain rank and file of a great American people.

The contributions of the Negro people to our country began with our history as a nation. Negro fighters gave their lives for freedom in the earliest days of chattel slavery. A Negro worker, Crispus Attucks, was the first American to fall in the war for freedom from British tyranny.

Negro leaders organized and fought in revolt against the slave-owning plantation system; thousands died for freedom in the Civil War. In World War II, scores of thousands of Negro soldiers fought and died—again taking their full part in the fight against enslavement.

Today, the rank and file of the Negro people are again providing a great part of the leadership and initiative in new struggles for freedom from wage slavery. Our own union, FTA-CIO, owes no small part of its success to the devotion and courage of its Negro members and officers.

Every union member, every man and woman of good will in our nation, will join in marking Negro History Week as a tribute to a great people and a great section of the American working class.

THE FARMER'S ANGLE

By HOMER AYRES

No matter how hard agriculture might pull up on its boot straps it will be unable to hold itself up to present price standards through its efforts alone. If agriculture has to rely on markets of prewar size it will face ruin.

This was the idea that Sec. of Agriculture Clinton Anderson tried to put across in his speech at the annual meeting of the Natl. Council of Farmer Cooperatives. Farmers might produce ever so abundantly, yet, if there is not a consumer market equal or much better than today's, farmers face going that will be much tougher than anyone has yet figured.

It is at this point that the farmers' future difficulties hook up directly with the problems city workers face—that of not receiving enough wages to buy all the good food they need. And this food problem will defy solution if the present witches' brew of antilabor laws is enacted. Because such laws will mean less wages, less food, less farm market, more farm surpluses and another depression.

So here is a chance for labor and farm leaders to come hand in hand before the Senate labor committee and say: "Look, we're together on this deal, not all the farmers have been bitten by the big business antilabor germ."

Now is the time for the union workers in thousands of towns all over the country to call in their farm friends—and everyone knows a few farmers—for a heart-to-heart talk.

Then after everyone sees the point, send some joint resolutions to Sen. Robert A. Taft blasting the antilabor mulligan as being made from the same tainted meat as the anti-farmer schemes. Talk about backing out on the farmers' guarantee of parity and floors under farm prices is an example of the latter.

There is a slight difference of opinion as to the size and number of holes that the Wall Street stooges want to drill in labor's boat. Some of the reactionary law-makers sound a word of caution about letting the water rush in too quickly, as the whole labor movement would then become aroused and united and knock the drills out of their hands.

They feel it would be much better to drill only small holes now so that the flood would come in slowly while labor argues about sea lions and sawdust—and who is to hold down the fewer union jobs. Then, at a little later date, with the labor movement up to its ears, pull all the plugs and send her to the bottom.

When these little schemes are all explained to the farmers all over the U. S. by the labor unions and the brotherhoods, the farmers will begin to see the shadow of another farm depression fall across their land as the strong light of truth shines on the guilty trusts and monopolies.

FTA news

Food, Tobacco, Agricultural and Allied Workers Union of America — CIO

Published twice a month from September to July inclusive and monthly in August at 47 Walker Street, New York 13, N. Y.

Editorial Office:

20th and Race Streets, Philadelphia 3, Pa.

Donald Henderson.....General President
Harold J. Lane.....General Secetary-Treasurer

Vice-Presidents

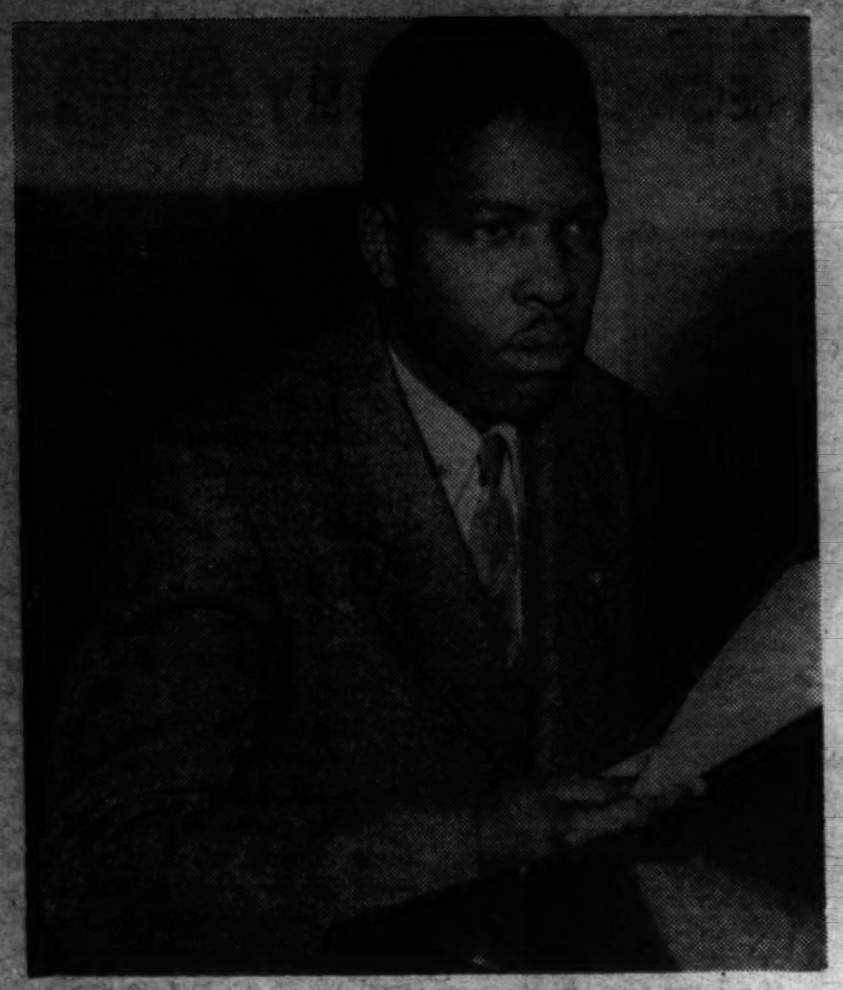
Lewis Bentzley, John Mack Dyson, Louis F. Jedlicka, Luisa Moreno, Otis Nation (on leave), Armando Ramirez, Robbie Mae Riddick, Dixie Tiller, Armando Valdes, Owen H. Whitfield

C. W. Fowler.....Editor

Subscription: $1 a year to non-members

"Reentered as second class matter December 30, 1944, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the Act of March 3, 1879."

Vol. VII February 15, 1947 No. 3



Cornelius Simmons, FTA leafhouse worker from Greenville, N. C., testifying before the Senate Judiciary sub-committee against proposed legislation to prevent workers from collecting portal to portal pay. Mary Williams, another Local 10 member, reported that her plant was milking the workers of one-half to three-quarters of an hour's work a day without pay.

LIBBY WORKERS TROUNCE AFL TEAMSTERS IN PORTLAND VOTE

By Frank V. Patterson

FTA Local 145 gave the AFL teamsters a decisive beating on February 4 in an NLRB consent election, held among the employes of Libby, McNeill and Libby, Portland, Oregon. Local 145 polled 75 percent of the votes.

The final score was: FTA-CIO, 145, 293; Cannery Warehousemen, Food Processors and Helpers, AFL, 97. There was only 1 "Neither" vote. A total of 391 production and maintenance workers voted.

The election itself was preceded by eight days of the most intensive pre-election campaigning ever seen in Oregon, with the FTA culminating its drive in a mass demonstration on February 3 at the gates of the plant.

About 80 large banners, carrying such titles as "It's Higher Pay with FTA," "You'll Get More Dough with CIO," and "Keep Rent Control As Is," were waved by large numbers of marching Local 145 members, and by members of 16 other Portland CIO unions and CIO Director Al Hartung's staff.

The largest delegations were from the National Maritime Union and the National Union of Marine Cooks and Stewards, with approximately 60 sailors participating. It was the first time in the history of Oregon that a demonstration even approaching this one in size and character was staged in connection with an election for bargaining rights.

Local 145 formally affiliated with FTA on August 1, 1946. Prior to FTA affiliation the workers were chartered directly by the CIO as an industrial union, having won an election in November, 1945, by polling 73½ percent of the votes.

Both officers and members hope that this victory will keep the Teamos out of their hair, where they have been since last September. Daily since that time there have been from four to 14 Teamster agents surrounding the Libby plant, trying to recruit members into Local 681. They have made such statements as, "We'll get that plant if it takes 10 years!" (It's the largest cannery in Oregon.)

During the seasonal rush in October, 1946, they had been able to infiltrate enough into the plant to obtain the necessary 10 percent representation cards, and petition for recognition. The FTA consented to an election during February so as to be able to present a solid front against the company during negotiations. The present agreement expires March 1.

The Libby workers were the first cannery workers in Oregon to organize, having accepted a charter as a federal union in the AFL in 1937. Strife and turmoil followed for several years, with various craft unions claiming jurisdiction of sections of workers.

The trouble was brought to a head in 1945 when the Teamsters demanded jurisdiction of the entire plant. An attempt to put this into effect met with bitter resistance, as it did elsewhere in the country. Anti-Teamster workers were, first, kicked out of the AFL, and then fired by the company, at Teamster initiative.

The firings, which included many people now on Local 145's Executive Board, exploded in the face of the company and the Teamsters. On July 13, 1945, the workers struck the plant, and it ran at only 35 percent capacity until August 8, 1946, with the union emerging the victors. The workers left no doubt of their sympathies when, after a long delay, they voted on November 1, 1946, to affiliate with CIO.

HIT CONGRESS PLOT TO END PORTAL PAY

Testifying against proposed legislation to wipe out portal-to-portal suits, FTA Legislative representative Elizabeth Sasuly told the House Judiciary Sub-committee that the Gwynne Bill (H.R. 584) would "affect the basic rights of workers under the Fair Labor Standards Act."

"Our members have told us of situations in their plants where employers have for years been chiselling time on them, both before and after the scheduled working time.

"In one plant the employes are required to punch in 15 minutes ahead of the scheduled working time in order to get the stemming machines working. They are not paid for that time. They frequently work 15 to 20 minutes after their regular quitting time, but the employer punches out the cards at the regular quitting time."

Citing other such examples, Sasuly said, "Many of these workers did not know, before union organization, that these practices of the employer were in violation of the law. They were in no position, as unorganized workers, to secure legal assistance and redress for their grievances.

"The Gwynne Bill provides that workers cannot receive overtime pay unless it was the custom and practice of the employer to pay his workers overtime. If the Gwynne Bill were passed, an employer could defend a suit to require payment for all of these unpaid periods of work with the bald statement that it was not his practice to pay for such work. Could anything be more disgraceful than this?

"If this bill were passed, the right to sue would be cut off unless suit were brought one year from the time the violation occurred. Let me point out that even now, some months after the leafhouse workers were organized, the union is only beginning to uncover violations which have occurred over a period of years."

KENTUCKY TOBACCO DRIVE ADDS NEW FTA ELECTION VICTORIES

Climaxing a whirlwind organizing drive, in which FTA so far has won elections in seven out of 10 plants, the Lexington, Ky. leafhouse workers were chartered as Local 66. The local covers some 3,000 workers, with a potential membership of 5,000.

In addition to election victories at the R. J. Reynolds, American Suppliers, P. Lorillard, and J. C. Stone tobacco redrying plants, reported in the last issue of FTA News, recent NLRB elections held show:

Brown and Williamson, 112 for FTA, ten for AFL and three for no union; Southwestern Tobacco Co., 116 for FTA, 22 for AFL and 26 for no union; American Suppliers, Maysville; 43 for FTA, two for no union. Runoff election is due at the Vaughn tobacco plant. Several more elections are scheduled.

Charges were filed by FTA with the NLRB against the Liggett and Myers Tobacco Co. which laid off 300 night shift workers on the day of the election. The union is asking for a new election as well as re-instatement with pay for the laid-off workers.

The FTA drive in the country's largest tobacco re-drying center started two months ago under the leadership of FTA organizers Harvey Baker, Bill DeBerry, Jo-Ann Salerno, Mike Shapiro and Russ Watson. The AFL had already signed a backdoor agreement with the Liggett and Myers Tobacco Co. with only 30 of 700 workers in the plant at the time.

Active committees were set up in each plant and a program presented to the workers for a 25c an hour increase, time and a half pay for overtime without exemptions, paid vacations and holidays, grievance procedure, seniority, health and sanitation, etc.

Among the many rank and filers who were most active in organizing the plants were Burton Richardson, Ulis Hall, Eunice Davis, Rose Baker, Nathan Lundsford, R. J. Cunningham, and others too numerous to mention. Some of those who took the lead in organizing were workers who spend most of the off-season months raising tobacco and other farm crops.

WIN FIRST RICE PACT

Local 75's first contract in the Texas rice industry was signed with the settlement of the Pritchard Rice Mill strike in Houston, Texas.

Gains included a 10 to 15c an hour increase, with $10 retroactive pay; a 70c an hour minimum; vacations of one week for five months and two weeks for nine months; paid holidays and irrevocable checkoff.

Since this is the first organized rice mill in the area, the pattern set is expected to determine conditions in the rest of the industry for some time.

PLAN 100% DRIVE IN NORTH CAROLINA

Settlement of grievances, registering to vote in the city elections this spring, winning unemployment benefits and organizing the leaf houses 100 per cent as well as other FTA plants in the area were issues decided by the 40-member Local 10 executive board at its February meeting. The board represents the 10 divisions of this new local of leaf house workers in eastern North Carolina and Virginia.

"The executive board in each division must take the lead," said Bob Lathan, Local 10 chairman and newly-elected international vice-president. "The most important job of Local 10 is to build each executive board to lead the membership so they can solve their problems and build Local 10 to full strength."

Organizers were assigned to work with each executive board in developing the stewards' council, PAC and unemployment, education, recreation and organizing committees. The leadership schools being held for a week in each division are assisting the officers and new members in understanding their jobs.

Local 10 holds bargaining rights in some 28 plants covering 8,500 workers in season, but the job of winning contracts in most of the plants will not come to a head before the season opens early next summer.

In many of the plants which are still operating to some extent, the stewards and membership are putting up a militant fight for their rights.

Watkin Allen, recently elected chairman of the Oxford division, has been put back to work at the Export plant. Women stewards at the China-American plant in Rocky Mount stopped discrimination in short order. At the Taylor plant in South Boston, Va., all union people are back at work.

"If you throw full force against those foremen, they are going to give," said one of the board members from South Boston. "You have to let them know where you stand."

Tobacco workers from the "big five" and independent plants in Lexington, Ky., at a mass meeting during the FTA organizing drive held at the Knights of Pythias Hall. Of the ten plants where NLRB elections have been held, FTA won seven. One run-off eelction is scheduled, and a new election is being demanded at another where 300 workers were laid off on election day. Several elections are still to be held.

THE DRIVE AGAINST LABOR

There is a determined effort in our country today to draw our people into a crusade against labor.

Propaganda flows in a steady stream from the press and from most radio commentators and newspaper columnists for legislation to shackle labor. It is a campaign based upon misrepresentation and deceit.

During the early part of this century the witch hunt against labor was carried on under the slogan of the "open shop plan." This high-sounding phrase meant little more than the arrogant insistence of American employers that while they were to be free to organize and to pit their economic strength against the workers, the workers were to be denied the freedom to organize.

The "open shop plan" was not merely a slogan. It was a call to battle. With this as a battle cry the organized employers in this country prior to the first World War systematically set about not merely to destroy the labor organizations already in existence through economic and physical weapons, but so to terrorize employees as to drive the organizational process underground.

The courts also freely lent their aid to the employers engaged in carrying out the "open shop plan." Anti-labor judges promptly issued injunctions to prevent workers from defending themselves against the aggression of their employers. In addition, the anti-trust laws were used to break unions and to ruin them financially. In contrast powerful business monopolies were permitted to thumb their noses at the anti-trust laws and to gain a powerful hold upon American economic life.

The Private War

After the first World War the open shoppers again resumed their own private war against the democratic rights of American workers. This time they changed their battle cry; they called it the "American plan." But only the words changed; the tune remained the same.

In addition to the usual weapons of the strike-breaker, the lockout, the labor spy, the discriminatory discharge, and the whole arsenal of devices which had been developed for destroying unions, the employer-sponsors of the "American plan" more than ever turned to the courts for help in their battle against labor. The campaign against labor was so brutal and lawless that fair-minded citizens were shocked; they realized some action was necessary to create an atmosphere in which working people could raise their heads and lift the banners of their labor organizations on high.

Recognizing Labor's Rights

To this end a number of laws were passed for the protection of labor. The cornerstones of the new policy with respect to labor were the Norris-LaGuardia Act, passed in 1932, which limited the power of the courts to issue injunctions in labor disputes, and the Wagner Act, passed in 1935, which protected labor in the right to organize and to bargain collectively.

At the same time many of the judges began to recognize that it was wrong and un-American for courts to permit themselves to become the tools of employers in labor disputes.

The courts thus came to recognize that the right to strike, the right to engage in peaceful picketing, the right to assemble in connection with labor matters, the right to distribute leaflets—all of these rights are fundamental rights of workers which may not be arbitrarily invaded.

The courts came to realize that these rights were nothing more than the rights safeguarded to all of the people by the Constitution—that the right to strike is nothing more than the right protected by the Constitution to be free of involuntary servitude; that the right to picket is nothing more than the constitutionally protected right of free speech, and that the right to go to a union meeting is nothing more than the constitutionally protected right of free assembly.

What has happened in the short period during which these statutes and decisions have been the law of the land? Has the old bloody dream of the open shop died out? Have the forces responsible for the "American plan" laid aside their weapons and their propaganda? Have they accepted in good faith the principle of federal law that workers' rights are to be respected and that collective bargaining is the true path to industrial peace?

Of course not!

15 Short Years

It is about 15 years since the Norris-LaGuardia Act was passed and about 11 years since the Wagner Act was passed.

During that period of time labor organizations, their members and their leaders have been subjected to an unremitting campaign of sniping and attack on the part of powerful American industrialists. These groups have sought in every way to weaken and destroy the Norris-LaGuardia Act. When the Wagner Act was passed they formed the infamous Liberty League to fight the Act, and obtained literally hundreds of injunctions against its enforcement until 1937, when it was held to be constitutional by the Supreme Court.

The voice of these employers is by no means quiet in our country today. The working people of America still do not enjoy the benefits of the federal labor program which has been 15 years in the making. Today in the United States there are many powerful employers who still regard the Wagner Act as a temporary embarrassment; who still fight the organization of their workers, and use their economic strength to destroy the efforts of their workers to organize.

Corruption And Terror

There are many areas in the United States in which labor organizers are beaten and maimed by mobs instigated and paid by employers. There are areas in the United States in which employers have corrupted the peace officers of entire communities and erected vast open shop citadels in defiance of their government.

Similarly, these same employers are still able to find judges who will issue injunctions to smash peaceful picketing.

These same employers, through their control of political machines even in large cities, have even recently succeeded in unleashing police brutality against workers of a type which carries one's memories back to the darkest days of our labor history.

At this moment in our history the stage has once again been set for a new "open shop" movement, for a new "American plan." Of course, those who are directing the present day crusade against labor realize that they can no longer be as open and flagrant as those who directed the anti-labor drives of the 1920's.

The slogans today are more subtle, but the purpose is the same.

The organized employers of this country, who have never surrendered their dream of an open shop America, pay lip service to collective bargaining and to the right of self-organization. They protest that they are merely in favor of certain basic "corrections," certain "minor" amendments.

The present-day attack on labor has a very special and fundamental additional purpose. It comes at a time when we have just finished a war during which, in every industry, monopoly interests succeeded in tightening their stranglehold on the nation. The enormous profits gained by these monopolistic groups during the war already have begun to be exposed to the people. And now, having succeeded in killing price controls, these same monopolies are preparing for a gigantic profit killing at the expense of the American people.

Unions Challenge Monopoly

The only groups challenging these all-powerful monopolies are the organizations of their workers.

These workers in early 1946 asked that their wage losses be remedied by a wage increase, and pointed out that the profits amassed by American monopolies were so tremendous that wage increases could and should be given without any price increases. The monopolies had a one-word answer to their employees. "No."

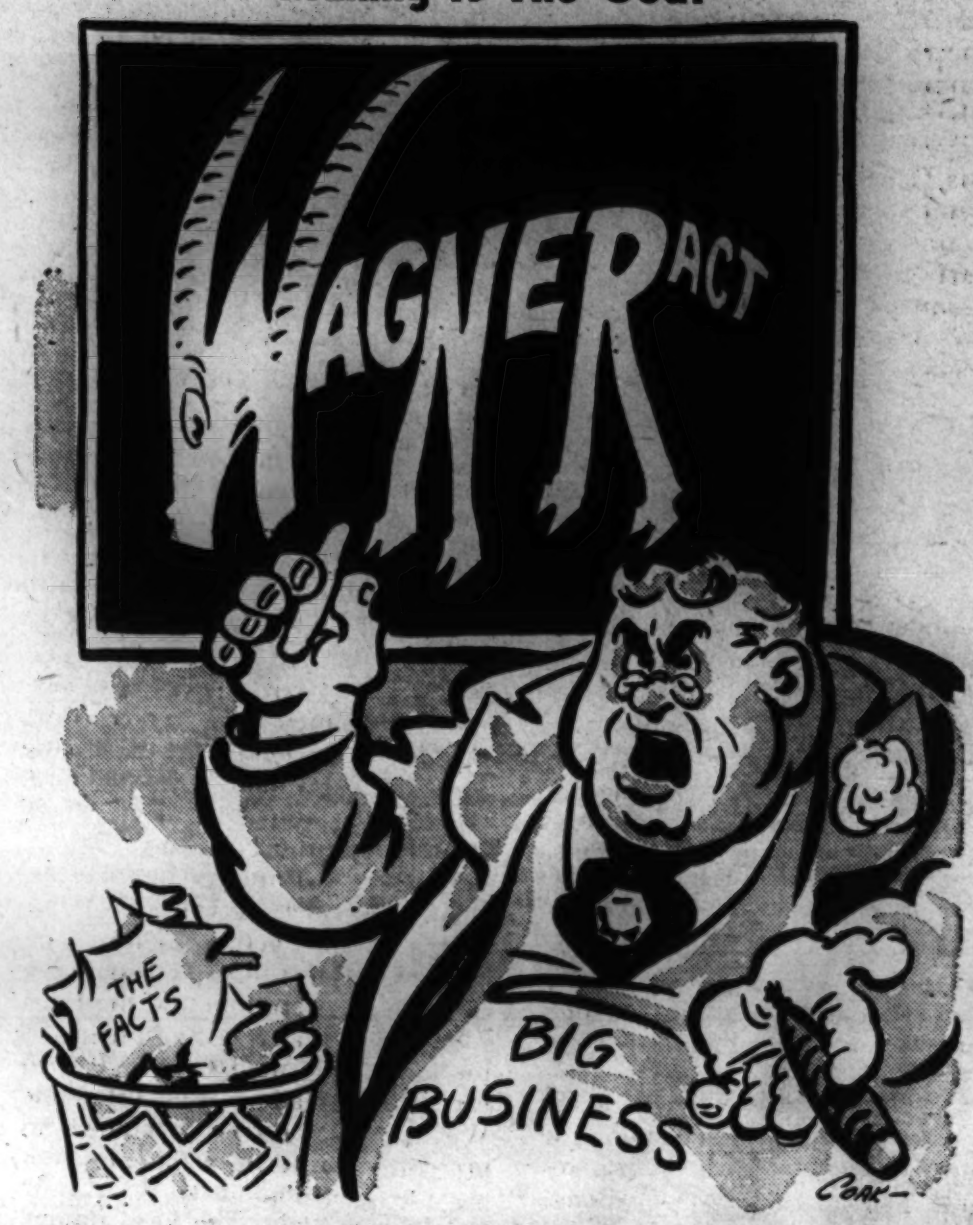
The workers, however, refused to take "No" for an answer.

They fought back, and they won.

Today, the monopolists have beaten the government into submission.

Price controls are off, prices have spiralled, and profits are at levels higher than any in our history. Once more the American workers are insisting that the monopolies

Making It The Goat



This is the first installment of the CIO pamphlet "The Drive Against Labor," which tells about the bosses' plans now shaping up in Congress. Read it, pass it around, order copies from CIO Publicity Department.

FTA News will run more installments of the pamphlet until it is finished. Prepared by the CIO Legal Department under the supervision of CIO General Counsel Lee Pressman, The Drive Against Labor is the best answer yet to appear to the reactionary attack on labor's rights in Congress.

OR HAS YOU FOR A TARGET

loosen their death-grasp on the nation's income, and allow the wage-earners enough to give them a decent standard of life.

The monopolists again are preparing to say "No." But this time, it is their aim to make the workers take "No" for an answer. And all of the anti-labor Congressmen, radio commentators, newspaper columnists and editorial writers are rallying to support the National Association of Manufacturers to help the monopolists squeeze the American people dry.

Today's anti-labor campaign is a smoke-screen to conceal the most outrageous monopolistic plundering in our history. It is a flank attack designed to force the labor movement to give up on its wage demands.

Some of today's labor-baiters boldly admit their goal is amendment or repeal of the Wagner Act and the Norris-LaGuardia Act. Most, however, pretend to preserve these laws while at the same time advancing proposals to chop the heart out of them. They conceal their intent in meaningless and misleading slogans which are oft repeated in press and radio to create the impression that these falsehoods and empty phrases are accepted truths.

Examine The Facts

Every American owes it to himself and his country to examine a few of these phrases and the facts behind them and not to be swept away in a tide of manufactured falsehood and slick propaganda. Some of the catch phrases of today are: "unions are monopolies," "make unions suable," "the closed shop is un-American," "stop coercive picketing," "amend the one-sided Wagner Act," "limit the right to strike." In some of these slogans, not even the words have changed from those of the "open shop" and the "American Plan" campaigns.

In all, the tune remains the same. The aim continues as before to destroy organized labor and to terrorize workers into an abandonment of their right of self-organization.

"Unions Are Monopolies" . . .

"Prohibit Industry-Wide Bargaining" . . .

These slogans have become a very fashionable way of attacking labor.

To the labor-haters these sound like good slogans, because the fight against monopolies is a good and progressive fight. The labor-baiters consider it a good idea to develop a slogan which confuses the anti-monopoly fight with the anti-labor fight by making it appear that organizations of working men and women are just as dangerous as the giant trusts and international cartels.

The NAM, however, gives the show away when it clarifies the proposal a little more. The NAM would make it illegal for "a union or unions representing the workers of two or more employers to take joint wage action or engage in other monopolistic practices."

We must keep in mind that under the anti-trust laws today it is illegal for any group to set up a conspiracy to control the trade in any commodity or to control prices. A labor union which joins with employers in such a conspiracy is just as liable as the employers. The Supreme Court made this clear in a number of decisions, and particularly in the case of Allen-Bradley Company v. Local Union No. 3, IBEW, 325 U. S. 797, decided June 18, 1945.

The Corporate Monopolies

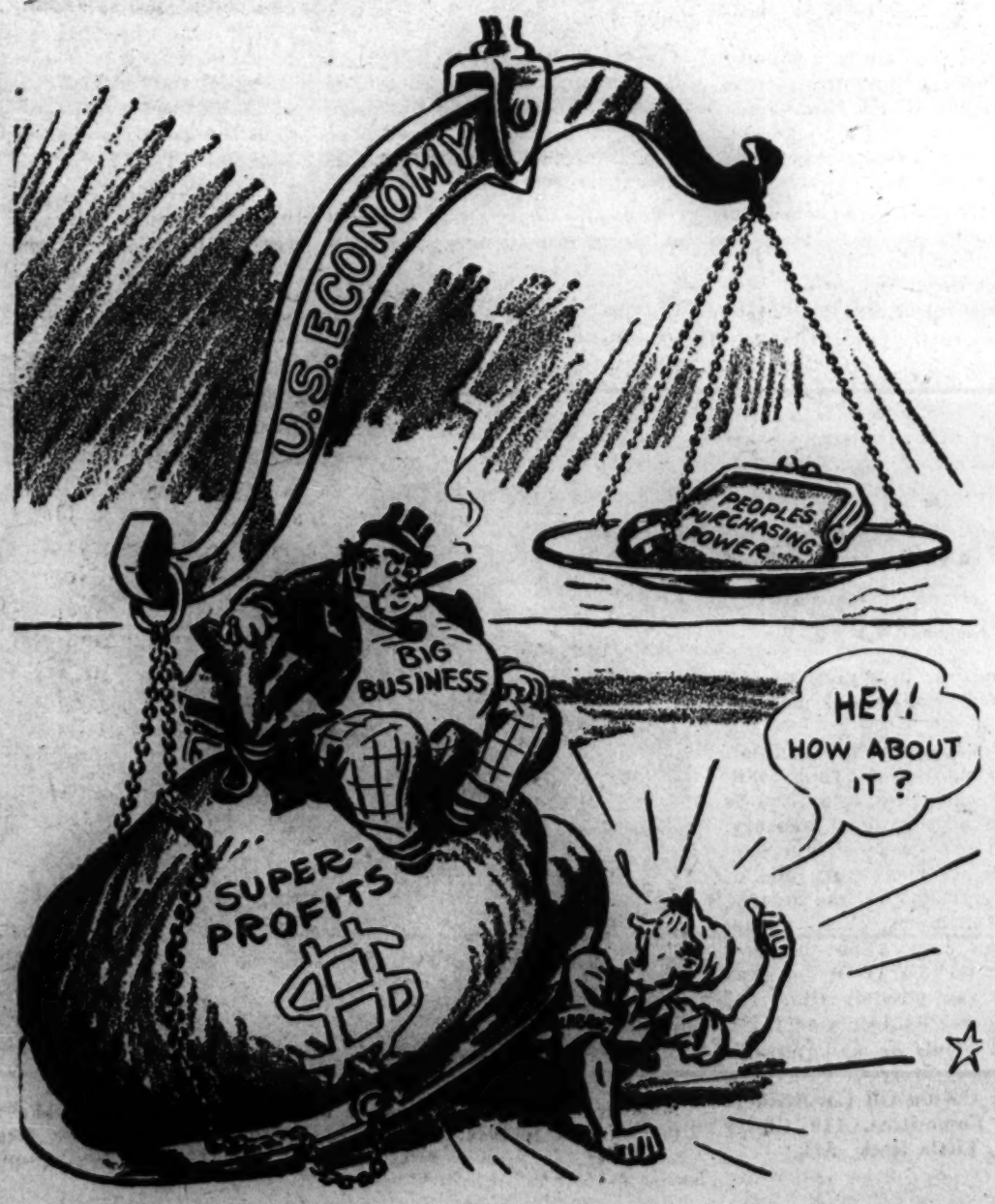
But this is not what the NAM is talking about. They are not concerned about monopolies among the trusts or among employers.

The NAM is not bothered, for example, by the fact that more than 500,000 small business concerns were eliminated from the market during the war.

They are not worried about the fact that 250 of the largest corporations in this country now hold approximately two-thirds of all the usable manufacturing facilities in the nation. Of these 250 largest manufacturing corporations which thus have a stranglehold on the nation's production, 31 are controlled by 5 banking groups—the Morgan, Mellon, Rockefeller, duPont, and Cleveland banking groups. The 8 largest banking groups directly control 100 of the largest non-financial corporations.

The NAM is not troubled by the fact that as of January 1, 1945, the 4 largest steel corporations controlled almost 63% of the total steel ingot capacity in America. Three of the banking groups mentioned (Morgan, Rockefeller and the Cleveland banks) control 7 of the 10 largest steel producers in America and account for nearly three-fourths of the total ingot capacity in the United States.

This is only a small part of the picture of growing industrial monopoly in this country, in which the flow of the life blood of the nation is controlled by small groups of powerful bankers. But this picture holds no terrors and brings forth no denunciation from the NAM. The NAM sees danger only in the fact that American working men are attempting to meet the power of these gigantic trusts by joining into labor organizations.



What Does It Mean?

What does the NAM proposal mean? What does it mean to forbid a union from taking "joint wage action" against two or more employers, or to forbid "industry-wide bargaining"?

In the steel industry this means that the United Steelworkers of America may not formulate a unified wage policy to be presented at the same time to the United States Steel Corporation, the Republic Steel Corporation, the Bethlehem Steel Corporation, or any two of these giant institutions. In the automobile industry the UAW may not take uniform action against the General Motors Corporation, the Chrysler Corporation, and the Ford Company, or any two of them. In the electrical industry the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers would be forbidden to present a uniform wage program to G.E. Westinghouse, R.C.A., or any two of them. The local unions representing employees of each of these employers would be required to act separately.

What does this mean in practice?

The local unions in the steel industry are all in one organization. The local unions in the automobile industry and in the electrical industry are each in a single national organization. The NAM, however, would prohibit the various local unions in each of these national organizations from consulting and cooperating with other local unions in the same national organization!

The NAM, in short, would forbid the existence of national unions. The NAM would break every one of our national organizations up into a series of separate local organizations.

There is something especially hypocritical about this proposal. When unions first started to organize in major industries they were able to organize only one plant at a time. When they bargained with the employer for a single plant the answer was given that these demands could not be met for the single plant alone because they were matters of general policy affecting the entire corporation. So the unions organized the entire corporation.

Then in industry after industry the reply was given: "Why make us the guinea-pig? Why should we be asked to pay more than our competitors? Why is this demand not made on our competitors as well as on us?"

As recently as 1945 and 1946 this was the complaint of the General Motors Corporation when it was the only automobile manufacturer involved in a strike. So the unions organized the competitors. Now the cry is: "Go back to the separate employers. Take them one at a time."

Never before has any responsible group dared to advance the outrageous theory now offered by the NAM that we must require competition in wage cutting. Our national policy has always insisted on competition with respect to the manufacture and sale of commodities.

Our economic system rests on the assumption that we will advance production and secure lower prices through the operation of our competitive system. But we have never insisted that employers engage in competition to see who could establish the worst conditions for his employees.

Uniform Practices

On the contrary, the War Labor Board adopted a uniform wage policy for the nation. In the steel industry the basic rate has been traditionally uniform throughout the industry; and increases have been given on an industry-wide basis for decades—long before there was any strong national union in the industry.

It has been our national policy to **eliminate** competition in wage rates, not to **foster** competition in sweatshop conditions. If the NAM were sincerely interested in stable labor-management relations, it would attempt to **advance**, not prohibit, industry-wide bargaining. Objective studies have demonstrated that industry-wide uniformity eliminates the chaos, conflict, and unsettled conditions which result from hundreds of separate negotiations.

Thus, a recent study under the auspices of Princeton University concluded that when wages are determined by National bargaining, the results are "more sensible and farsighted, taking in the economic interests of the industry as a whole."

(To be continued)

John Tisa, newly elected Organization Director of FTA, told the delegates, "a good organizing offensive on our part is the best defense against the anti-union efforts of the bosses." Tisa, who was one of the organizers of the Campbell Soup plant in Camden, is the first to be elected to this newly-created post.

Organizing

KENTUCKY DRIVE OVER THE TOP

By JOHN TISA, Director of Organization

FTA's organizing campaign in Eastern Kentucky was a successful drive and a unique one in recent union history. Within two months time, from last December to February, 1947, 10 elections were held with seven clear-cut FTA victories. The other three are being contested because of company and AFL collusion to try to keep the FTA from winning.

The uniqueness of this drive stems from the fact that FTA entered the picture at a time when the AFL and the bosses of the leaf houses had signed a backdoor contract with the Liggett and Myers plant in Louisville and were planning to enter into collusive agreements against the FTA. The staff of AFL organizers doubled ours.

Harvey Baker of Florida took charge in the initial stages of the campaign with Jo Ann Salerno of Louisville, Chuck Gibson of Louisville and Bill DeBerry of North Carolina as assistants, and began breaking ground in the face of the above opposition. Later, when Baker left for Florida, Mike Shapiro went in as director of the drive, Russell Watson of Philadelphia joined him, and the Rev. Louis W. Falkner of Danville, Ky., also took a great part in the drive.

It was only after intensive day and night work in plant after plant, acquainting the workers with the program of the FTA and with the victories in the leaf house drive in North Carolina that the pendulum swung from the Tobacco Workers International Union, AFL (which had a strong foothold in every plant) to FTA-CIO.

Rank and file committees were built in every one of the plants which signed up workers by the hundreds throughout the city of Lexington and in Maysville. The subsequent victories can be attributed mainly to the rank and file organizing committees in each plant. Among the rank and file who did an exceptionally good job was B. Richardson, worker in the R. J. Reynolds plant.

Negro and white workers joined together to build a local which is now chartered as Local 66 for Eastern Kentucky. Contract negotiations are currently taking place to raise wages from the minimum of 45c for women and 60c for men to a higher level. About 3,000 workers are involved in these 10 plants.

More elections are scheduled in February and the drive in Eastern Kentucky will not be over until there is one solid union of leaf house redrying workers in that entire area. This successful organizational campaign marks the first large organizing step for FTA in Kentucky. Organization will continue in other fields under FTA jurisdiction.

WILL TAKE ARKANSAS CASE TO U. S. COURT

Preparation to carry the Southern Cotton Oil Co. strikers case to the U. S. Supreme Court to test the constitutionality of the Arkansas "Anti-Violence" Law under which several Local 98 members were convicted and to reverse the decision of the lower courts, was indicated this week by President Henderson and Secretary-Treasurer Lane.

"It is up to us to see to it that money will be provided to carry this fight to the highest court in the land," they said. "How much longer are we going to stand by and see our people denied their rights, beaten and murdered, in trying to advance the interest of themselves and their families, in trying to improve their wages and working conditions.

"You must organize a fund collection committee in your local. It is not enough to vote $5.00 or $10.00 out of your local treasury. Your shop stewards should take up a collection in every one of their departments for the defense of our members. You should match the amount out of your local treasury or contribute as much as you possibly can," the letter to all FTA locals said.

Checks should be made payable to Georgia Morris, Secretary, Southern Cotton Oil Co. Strikers Defense Committee, 119 Glover Building, Little Rock, Ark.

Fair Tax Program

"The Case of the Vanishing Paycheck" is no mystery, once you read the CIO's latest pamphlet put out in comic book form. It tells the story of how wage earner, Johnny Poore, was robbed by unfair taxes and what he did about this problem.

Prepared by a tax expert under the supervision of the CIO tax committee, this pamphlet is designed in an interesting fashion to present the CIO's program for a fair tax system.

In view of the vicious tax proposals being made in Congress, "The Case of the Vanishing Paycheck" should be widely distributed and used as a basis for action. It can be ordered from the CIO, 718 Jackson Place, N. W., Washington, D. C., at 10c per copy; 100 for $7.50.

Also of immediate interest is the pamphlet "You and the WFTU" which tells the story of the CIO's role in the World Federation of Trade Unions. Order from CIO at 100 for $4.00.

How To Organize A Local Strike

"The best strike is a strike that is won before it is called: a strike that is organized so well, that the employer decides he had better not hold out . . . In any case, the ability to organize a stronge strike is the workers' final protection."

With this point, FTA's latest phamplet, "How To Organize A Strike", goes on to outline the steps in "operation picketline." The pamphlet, prepared by Education Director Connie Anderson, covers such points as: negotiations, telling the public, strike leadership, strike activities, etc.

Copies should be ordered free from the FTA Education Department.

Win 27½c Since VJ

Local 68's newest contract with the Dailey Pickle Co. in Saginaw, Mich., brought gains of 12c an hour totalling 27½c since V-J Day.

In addition to wage increases, the contract includes a cost of living clause providing for wage raises in proportion to cost of living increases, according to financial secretary Bob Wirsing.

Company paid life, hospital and surgical insurance; strengthened union shop clause; and an improved paid vacation schedule were other gains.

FTA ATTENDS FARM UNION CONVENTION

Herb Kling, president of Local 80, Camden, N. J., brought FTA's fraternal greetings to the National Farmers Union, Eastern Division convention held recently in Trenton, N. J.

Following the convention, Kling participated in a 15-minute radio forum with National Farmers Union President James Patton over the Trenton station. Theme of the broadcast was the common interests of farmers and organized workers.

President Patton warned that the present drive to scuttle the price support promises made to farmers during the war goes hand-in-hand with the drive against labor. "Higher wages are necessary," he said, "in order to keep our economy functioning at high level production."

In their reports, Waldo McNutt, president of the Eastern Division and Ed Yomans, secretary, both sounded the note of unity with labor and progressive organizations for a counter-offensive against reaction.

"We denounce the onslaught which big business has launched against the families of American workmen, and indirectly against ourselves, as farmers," the farmers declared in a resolution. "We deplore the debasement of certain farm organizations and a segment of the farm press in spreading . . . anti-labor propaganda . . . in an attempt to divide farmers against workers.

"We pledge ourselves to join with labor in our common struggle to protect the welfare and to advance the interests of all. We call upon labor to implement its position in support of the family-type farm . . ."

Featured speaker at the NFU convention was Fiorello H. LaGuardia, former director of UNRRA. LaGuardia issued a blasting attack against the U. S. State Department for breaking its agreement with 44 other nations to set up a world food organization.

The State Department, he said, "listened to the cotton and wheat brokers—the exchange men who make their profits regardless of you and me."

The plan which had been agreed upon included international machinery to provide "food for freedom"; and international ever-normal granary to insure against droughts and famine, international stabilization of prices to prevent the use of food as a political weapon.

"The Farmers Union, together with farmers in all parts of the country must join with the American people and demand that the U. S. State Department adhere to its committments for a real international food board," said LaGuardia, calling upon the farmers to flood their congressmen with letters.

Repeating LaGuardia's charges, Patton pointed out that "despite the fact that two-thirds of the people of the world are engaged in agriculture, half of the people of the world are dangerously undernourished and only one-third can be said to have enough to eat."

Waldo McNutt, president of the Eastern Division of the National Farmers Union, addressing the FTA convention.

"LABOR USA"

CIO's Own Program

ABC NETWORK

6:45 PM EST

Every Saturday

Check Your Local Station For Exact Time

A "Surefire" Show, Says Variety

Members of the Joint Council of Quaker Oats Locals take time out during the busy convention to pose for a picture. Standing is Nebraska-Missouri-Iowa Regional Director Louis Jedlicka who was elected by the delegates to the National Executive Board.

Training For Leadership

LEAF SCHOOLS HELD

By CONNIE ANDERSON, Education Director

If you had been able to drop into the basement of the Mt. Calvary Church in Greenville, N.C., between seven and 10 p.m. during the last week in January, you would have seen 50 officers, stewards and active members at their first Local 10 leadership school. And at Kinston, N.C., the following week, you would have found similar activity at St. Peter's Church.

A few of the delegates were just back from the FTA convention, two of them had been to the portal to portal pay hearings in Washington, and all were on fire to build the union to full strength, in the six Greenville leaf houses, and the five Kinston leaf houses.

Asking why the leaf house workers have gone so long at rock bottom wages and without bargaining rights, the delegates considered the power of the tobacco companies and the failure of the AFL for more than 40 years to give the workers any leadership. The leaf house workers know that their strength lies in unity, in trade union democracy, in FTA organization run by the workers to fight for decent wages and working conditions.

Study of the Winston-Salem leaf house contracts won by FTA disclosed that it is possible to win time and a half after eight hours a day and 40 hours a week, vacations, holidays with pay, sanitary conditions and other points never heard of in the leaf tobacco industry before FTA swung into action.

Until last summer, wages and hours had rested at the minimum of the wage and hour act—40c an hour and 56 hours at straight time during 14 weeks each year.

High point of the discussions on grievance settlement was Bob Lathan's description of how a steward refuses to be humbled by a foreman who thinks he rules the world.

At a big Friday night membership meeting in Greenville, delegates put on a grievance skit which they had worked out at afternoon sessions. With Annie Little announcing the acts, they showed how a worker in a non-union plant gets fired — and that's the end. But when the snooping foreman (Eddie Ebron) tried to pick on Mary Williams, the story was very different, for this was an FTA plant. The workers busily picking over tobacco managed to get Sister Williams and Steward Alex Darden together and the audience broke into enthusiastic applause over the outcome. Brother Darden refused to be put off the track by the foreman, and Sister Williams was put back on her job.

The discussion on how to match the tobacco bosses' strength in politics was led by Washington representative Elizabeth Sasuly in Greenville, and by Southern PAC Director Dan Powell in Kinston.

Workers who have up until now been denied their legal right to vote figured out very carefully how to start getting on the books this spring before the city elections.

In a special afternoon class led by Mrs. Helen Baker of the Southern School for Workers, Kinston members wrote their first letters to state legislators asking them to vote against an anti-union shop law which had just been introduced in the North Carolina state capitol.

Delegations to the local employment offices tracked down some of the answers on how to get benefit checks. Hundreds of leaf house workers have become so disgusted with the mumbo-jumbo of forms, questions and offers of $5.00 a week jobs cooking in some boss's home that they just give up. But Local 10 committees have resolved to take on the fight for money due unemployed workers.

Officers and committee members feeling swamped with the job of organizing meetings and other union work "let down their hair" at the sessions on Local 10 organization. Bob Lathan brought examples of how work is organized in the older locals and told how a union meeting can handle its problems in a lively two hours with all reports short and to the point so that the members do not have to stay up half the night.

Both schools ended with a 30-question quiz which caused some headaches but high scores for most of the delegates. Then a closing consisted of awarding certificates, refreshments, and singing of "We Are Building A Strong Union."

Funds for school expenses in Greenville were raised at the Friday membership meeting at which the school delegates put on the program. In Kinston, the rent money and other expenses were arranged by Frank Hutcheson, shop steward at Webbs'. A number of people in both places worked hard in arranging and running the schools.

Pension Plan

BOSS UPPED 1200%; WORKERS CUT 50%

The new pension plan of the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., will cut retirement payments to employes making less than $3,000 a year by approximately 50% while increasing the benefits in the upper brackets as much as 1,200% for the top boss, Chairman S. Clay Williams.

Desirable features of the plan, Local 22 said are provisions for retirement of 65 year-old workers without completing 20 years of service. Employes reaching the age of 55 who have completed 20 years of service will be eligible for "early retirement."

However, the statement signed by Phil Koritz, former director of the local, said: "I believe that we can safely say that all of the employes covered by our bargaining unit . . . will receive less of a retirement pension from the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. under the plan to become effective January 1, 1947, than under the present retirement plan."

"Under the new plan, S. Clay Williams, Chairman of the Board would receive an estimated $506 a week. Under the present plan, Mr. Williams can only receive a maximum retirement benefit of $40 a week.

"Under the new plan, the benefits to be received by an employe making $3,000 a year or less would be cut approximately 50% while Mr. Williams would receive an increase in his benefits of 1,200%.

"A worker making 70c an hour after reaching the age of 65 and completing 20 years of service would receive approximately $4.32 a week or $18.75 a month under the new plan. Under the present plan, this same employe would receive approximately $8.65 a week or $37.50 a month.

"Had the present plan continued in effect a few more years," the union statement went on, "the entire cost of $10,120,000 would have been repaid. . . . On this basis, it seems that it would have been totally unnecessary to change the present retirement plan to the obvious detriment of the overwhelming majority of the employes of the company."

JIMCROW WALLS COME TUMBLING DOWN

Jimcrow took a beating in Local 92's contract with the National Starch Co., Indianapolis, Ind., providing for removal of dressing-room partitions separating Negro and white workers.

A 98c an hour minimum hiring rate; a 12c an hour increase retroactive to January 1, three paid holidays, overtime pay at double time after 12 hours work in addition to the present time and half after eight hours, and a greatly improved seniority clause, were other important gains.

The contract specifies that workers found guilty of jimcrow agitation would be subject to firing.

About 40% of the 200 employes covered by the contract are Negro.

"The effect of these jimcrow partitions has been to weaken the union by dividing members along racial lines," said Regional Director Jessica Rhine. "Removal of the partitions will consolidate our unity and win higher wages," she declared.

"Without a union shop, this victory could never have been won," she said.

Local 92 President Owen Young is a Negro.

Some of the most skillful representatives of the CIO in this part of the country have worked on this problem in the past and have never succeeded until now, according to International Organizer Jim Barnett. "The walls in the dressing room of the National Starch Co. have been there for years. Time after time unsuccessful attempts have been made to remove them."

Local 92's victory was headlined in the Indianapolis Recorder, local weekly newspaper.

CONVENTION CHANGES FTA CONSTITUTION

Growth in the organization of FTA over the past two years led the delegates to adopt changes in the constitution to improve the functioning of the union.

Revision in the structure of the International Executive Board, provides for a General President, General Secretary-Treasurer, and for the first time an elected Organizational Director. Three Vice-Presidents, in place of the former nine, are to function full time in their official posts and carry out Board assignments.

The Executive Board consisting of nine members plus the officers, will meet once every six months and be responsible for carrying out the decisions of the convention, and for the duties of the officers. Vacancies in the Board are to be filled from among nine elected alternates.

The changed constitution also provides for establishment of an Agricultural Department to handle problems of relations with farmers, agricultural workers and organizations.

The convention adopted a provision against supervisory workers holding office in the International Union. Supervisory employees may not hold office in local unions or other bodies without the express written permission of the International Executive Board.

Referendum votes in the International will be based on the membership vote.

Greater responsibility was placed in the hands of the International Executive Board in cases of violations of the constitution, interests and welfare of the International. The Board is empowered to investigate the condition, and take action which it deems necessary.

Also included in the constitutional changes are improvements in trial procedure; functioning of regional councils; specifying duties of the International Officers; etc.

RENEW AID PLEDGE TO CALIFORNIA WORKERS

Thanking the CIC unions for their support in the California cannery election campaign, the delegates pledged to continue the fight to free the California cannery workers from company-union domination.

"We call upon all CIO unions to support the California canditions surrounding the election nery workers in their fight to have the unfair election and the collusive contract set aside by the NLRB, and a new election ordered, without the illegal con- of August, 1946, with full protection of the right of cannery workers to make their own choice of collective bargaining agent and with all the necessary safeguards against company-union intimidation assured.

"We pledge to our brother CIO unions that we shall, with their assistance, carry on the fight to free the California cannery workers from company-union domination and thus ensure the continued effectiveness of the Wagner Act.

"FTA-CIO further pledges to carry on the fight in support of the cannery workers both on the job in the canneries and in the political campaign that must be waged in Washington and in the nation to secure them in their rights.

"FTA-CIO will not end this struggle until the cannery workers in California shall be able to take their place with their fellow workers in the CIO as free men and women, enjoying all rights and benefits won by workers liberated from company union domination."

Like all well-run conventions, FTA's 6th national parley had a banquet to top off with. The affair was a tribute to the 10 years' leadership of President Donald Henderson, who was presented with a pocket watch by the delegates. Secretary-Treasurer Harold J. Lane, who acted as master of ceremonies, also received a present—a set of matched suitcases. Above is one corner of the festivities.

Local 26 Members At Southern School

Two members of Local 26, Suffolk, Va., attended the first of a series of schools for union members held in Washington last week. They were Etta Mae Willie and John Ward Jr. Sixteen members of Virginia unions spent the entire week in an intensive study of just how our national government works.

Sponsored by the Southern School for Workers, the school was the first of its kind attempted by trade union members.

MERIT AWARD WINNERS

Adele Ellis, Local 57
Richmond, Va.

Henry Gistover, Local 194
Chicago, Ill.

Fourteen outstanding rank and file FTA members received merit awards at the convention for their "meritorious work in their locals and areas".

Recipients of the award, nominated by the locals in their regions, were: **Northeast Council**—Abelardo Baez, 273, New York City and Lucy Aiello, 56, Trenton, N. J.; **Middle-Atlantic Council**—Mary Montanero, 186, Philadelphia and Benjamin Butler, 80, Camden, N. J.; **Michigan-Ohio Council**—Louis Barnes, 120, Akron, Ohio and Nancy Day, 55, Middletown, Ohio; **Mississippi Delta Council**—Alberta Johnson, 63, Turrell, Ark.; **Nebraska-Iowa-Missouri Council**—Mervin Myers, 110, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; **California-Arizona Council**—Jeannie Bayliss, 78, and Sarah Miller, 82, Modesto, Calif.; **Tri-State Council**—Mamie Cross, 26, Suffolk, Va. and Adele Ellis, 57, Richmond, Va.; **Indiana-Illinois Council**—Henry Gistover and Josephine Chlupsa, 194, Chicago.

Benjamin Butler, Local 80
Camden, N. J.

Albert Ellison of Local 22 in Winston-Salem, received honorable mention.

Members receiving the awards who were present at the convention were called to the platform and presented with the diamond-studded FTA pins by Committee Chairman Elmer Ringer. Most of them were too stunned to say more than a few words amidst the applause of the delegates.

"I want to thank everybody in this convention for the award you are giving me," said Klein Cigar Shop Chairman Abelardo Baez. "But I would like to tell you that this is an award I would never get if it hadn't been for the New Brunswick and New York FTA women who helped win the strike and a union shop at the Trenton plant."

Adele Ellis, who works at the Southern Biscuit Co., said, "I share this merit award with Local 45, of Richmond, who gallantly fought to organize Local 57. We were working for nothing. We couldn't get a union, though we had tried with the AFL time and again.

"Local 45 came to our aid and financially supported us and helped us organize. Today we have a union shop, a 75c minimum, six paid holidays, and vacations.

"This is my first convention, and I hope I will be able to come back again with this very same crowd, only larger."

Smiling and happy, Lucy Aiello, president of Local 56, told the delegates "I want to share this award with a group of girls who helped organize our union and make it one of the strongest in the city of Trenton. Without their help my work wouldn't have meant a thing."

Unable to choose between the excellent records of two nominees from Local 194, Henry Gistover and Josephine Chlupsa, the committee presented the award to Gistover, leaving the final decision to the Local.

"It is a great pleasure to know that my work in the local together with another fellow worker has received consideration for the award;" said Gistover. "I think this award should be a beacon light to all our members."

Campbell Soup Shop Chairman, Benjamin Butler, of Local 80, said, "I don't know what I have done to merit this award, because I feel that I cannot do enough for the labor movement. I can only prove my worth in action. To my local and to FTA, I say thank you."

Merit Award Committee Chairman Elmer Ringer presenting an award to Abelardo Baez, chairman of the Klein Cigar Shop, Local 273, New York.

DEADLINES

Deadlines for next issue of FTA News are: All pictures, Thursday, Feb. 20. All news stories, Monday, Feb. 24. Last minute bulletins, Tuesday, Feb. 25.

Extra copies of the two convention issues of FTA News (Jan. 15 and Feb. 1) are free for the asking from the Press and Publicity Dept., FTA, 20th and Race Sts., Philadelphia 3, Pa.

You'll find them useful in telling FTA's story to new members and prospects.

TRIBUTE TO FDR

Paying tribute to the memory of Franklin D. Roosevelt, the delegates to FTA's Sixth National Convention pointed out that in putting forward his "Economic Bill of Rights" . . . "Roosevelt proved that a world secure against fascism must also be secure against unemployment, low wages and economic insecurity.

"The official successors of Franklin D. Roosevelt have deliberately turned their backs on his leadership not only in international policy but also in the domestic policies and program that affect our daily lives.

"The enemies and detractors of Roosevelt, who still defile his name daily in the press and on the radio, are the enemies of the workers of this country and of the world, regardless of political affiliation. At the same time, those political leaders who have repudiated the Roosevelt program are rapidly revealing themselves as the accomplices of the peoples' enemies and of the enemies of progress in this and other countries.

"Our answer to these people, and our memorial to Franklin D. Roosevelt, lies in a renewed determination to secure the carrying out of his policies and program on a domestic and on an international scale, for the strengthening of world unity for the peace and freedom of all peoples, including those living in the colonial countries and areas, and of our own people."

BAR BILBO

.The unity of labor and progressive groups has temporarily blocked the seating of Senator Bilbo in the 80th Congress, and has thereby dealt a blow to racism and to nazi theories of so-called "white supremacy".

The nation-wide indignation at the naming of Bilbo to the Senate by a minority of the eligible voters of Mississippi is not merely a protest against an individual, but is a wholesome sign of the people's rejection of all similar Hitlerite campaigns, not only in the South but throughout the U.S.A.

The united drive against the seating of Bilbo must be carried on also against other advocates of discrimination and racial hatred. Such discrimination is recognized by the FTA-CIO and by the labor movement generally as directed against all workers and all people.

The 6th National Convention of the FTA-CIO urges that Bilbo, as the prime exponent of racial hatred, be permanently debarred from the Congress and that the conditions which permit the naming of a Bilbo be ended through passage of Federal polltax repeal legislation, permanent Federal and state FEPC legislation and a Federal anti-lynching law.

IT TAKES MORE THAN AFL's GOT TO WIN

After 18 months of disruption within the Charleston plant of the American Tobacco Co., the AFL lost out to FTA Local 15 in an NLRB election on January 31. The vote was 772 for FTA, 691 for AFL Tobacco Workers, and 12 for no union.

The AFL-employer cooperation began as far back as August, 1945, when the War Labor Board ordered the company to grant wage increases and a wage reopening clause. Flatly refusing to consider Local 15's wage increase proposals, the company forced the union out on strike.

While the strike was in progress, the AFL's petition for an election in the plant was thrown out by the NLRB. Yet, a year and a half later, the NLRB reconsidered the AFL's petition.

During the period before the election, the AFL carried on a vicious smear campaign which was picked up by the Charleston papers. The papers hastily dropped their campaign against Local 15 President Reuel Stanfield, when they saw it made no impression on the workers.

Local 15 members celebrated the election victory at a "Victory Dance" planned weeks in advance by entertainment committee chairman John Cummings.

'PORTAL' SUIT PAYS OFF IN LEAFHOUSES

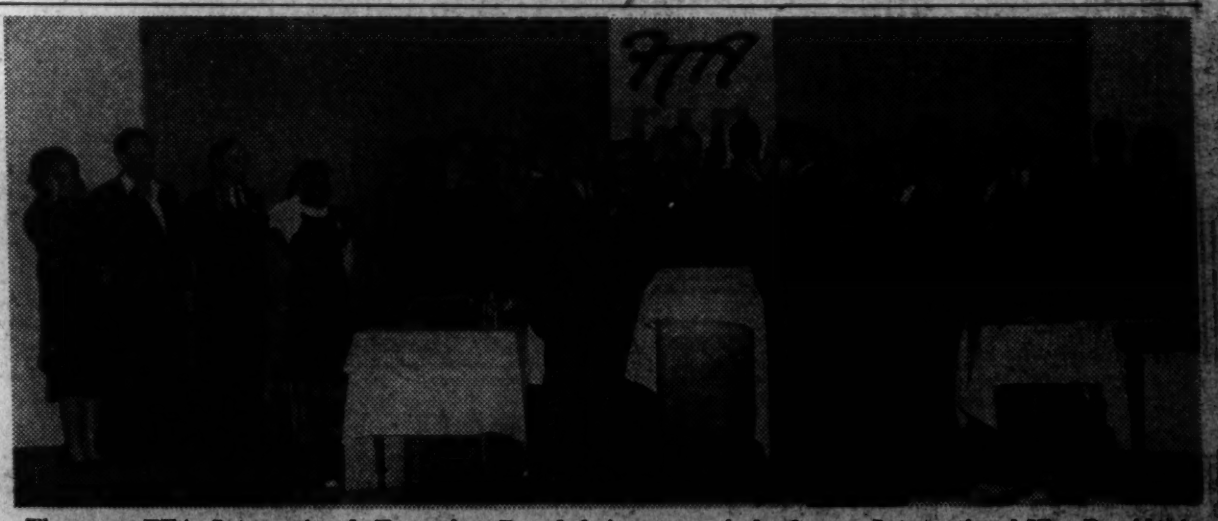
Leafhouse workers in Greenville, ville, N.C., are pleased to see some benefits already from their portal to portal suits. At the Imperial Tobacco Co. here, on pay day Friday, January 31, the workers were told to stop work a few minutes before five to get their checks, according to Cornelius Simmons, chairman of Local 10's Greenville devision.

"We feel sure that the company has started paying us on time because they know we filed a portal to portal pay suit," Simmons told a membership meeting that night.

"Always before we had to wait around after five o'clock or come back on Saturday. Now, for the first time we got our checks on company time and were through work—including getting our pay —at five p.m., as it is meant to be according to law."

CORRECTION

An advertisment of the Copper County (Wisc.) Chees Cooperative in the Feb. 1 issue was incorrectly ascribed to the "Copper County Cheese Corporation." FTA News regrets the error.



The new FTA International Executive Board being sworn in by former International Vice-President Owen Whitfield at the close of the convention. Members of the Board include President Henderson, Secretary-Treasurer Lane, Organization Director John Tisa, International Vice-Presidents Luisa Moreno, Robert Lathan, Armando Ramirez, nine members, and nine alternates.